

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the Specification of the above-identified application as follows.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 16 as follows.

--According to one aspect of the present invention there is provided a securing apparatus, including

a deformable body, wherein the body is configured to provide an interference fit with at least one article to which it is fitted, and

an aperture within the body, wherein the aperture is configured to accept the releasing tool,

~~characterised in that~~

wherein the securing apparatus is unlocked by the operation of the releasing tool with respect to the body and remains locked at all other times.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 14 as follows.

--The inclusion of the slot allows each section of the aperture, i.e., the section on each side of the slot, to be opened and operated individually thereby ensuring that the operation of the releasing tool within one part of the aperture will not release an article to which another part of the aperture is secured.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 1 as follows.

--It should be appreciated that the internal dimensions of the body of the securing device are smaller than the dimensions of the shaft-/tube-/pipe-/rod, etc., to which the present invention is to be fitted, as this will greatly improve the locking strength of the present invention onto such an article.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 1 as follows.

--In some preferred embodiments of the present invention the releasing tool is tapered or has a non-uniform cross-section (e.g., a dovetailed or wedged section) configured so that the releasing tool is pushed into the aperture in order to spread the aperture to a point where the previously secured article is now insecure or unlocked, or to the point where the present invention can be fitted over part of an article to which it is intended to be secured.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 15 as follows.

--However, this should not be seen to be a limitation on the present invention in any way as in other embodiments the body can be non-circular, e.g., oval, rectangular, triangular etc.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 1 as follows.

--According to another aspect of the present invention as provided a method of operating a securing apparatus, including includes:

a deformable body, wherein the body is configured to provide a secure interference fit with at least one article to which it is fitted, and

an aperture within the body, wherein the aperture is configured to accept a releasing tool,

~~characterised by the step of~~

further including the step of inserting a releasing tool within the aperture until the securing apparatus is unlocked.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 11 as follows.

--According to another aspect of the present invention as provided a method of operating a securing apparatus, includingincludes:

a deformable body, wherein the body is configured to provide a secure interference fit with at least one article to which it is fitted, and

an aperture within the body, wherein the aperture is configured to accept a releasing tool,

~~characterised by the step of~~

further including the step of inserting and partially rotating a releasing tool within the aperture until the securing apparatus is unlocked.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 1 as follows.

--According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a releasing tool for a securing apparatus as previously disclosed,

~~characterised in that~~

wherein the releasing tool is configured to operate with respect to the body in order to unlock the securing assembly.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 10 as follows.

--Another significant advantage of the present invention is that it can be constructed to operate to either secure an article by gripping the ~~article's~~ article's outer surface, or to fit inside and secure an article by gripping its² inner surface.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 18 as follows.

--With reference to the figures there ~~as~~ is illustrated a securing apparatus generally indicated by arrow 1.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 9 as follows.

--The A telescoping section (6) which has a smaller cross-sectional area is then secured by an area of the body (2) with a correspondingly smaller cross-sectional area to the area securing the hollow shaft (5).--

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 16 as follows.

--Therefore atthe side slot (4) bisects the aperture (3) so that each section of the securing apparatus (1) can be released separately.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 1 as follows.

--It should be noted that the non-apertured section (7--)_can be constructed as part of a device or assembly, including atthe shaft (~~75~~) such as in Figure 1.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 13 as follows.

--It should be noted that ~~the~~a stress reduction device (9) can clearly be seen at the end of the aperture (3) in the close up view of ~~figure (3)~~Figure 3.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 1 as follows.

--A threaded releasing tool (13) is inserted into a complementarily threaded section (10) ~~if~~of the body (2) until the aperture (3) is opened sufficiently to allow the securing apparatus (1) to be moved over the parts of the two articles that are to be secured together.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 14 as follows.

--The rotating section 12 includes atthe threaded section (10).--

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 16 as follows.

--The body (2) includes a number of the apertures (3) at either end of the body (2), all of which extend only partially along the length of the body (2).--